

DRAFT:OLC/JMM:jmd 3 April 1969

The Honorable Richard B. Russell
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable John Stennis, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Mr. Chairman:

A problem is looming on the horizon which may reach troublesome proportions and about which I think you should know.

State Department officials appearing before the Foreign Relations Committee have recently been asked to produce certain highly classified National Intelligence Estimates relating to a possible Soviet first strike capability and the Soviet SS-9 missile program. They have responded by suggesting that such a request should be taken up with the Director of Central Intelligence, but when pressed on whether the State Department could provide copies of these Estimates for the Committee, they deferred a direct response.

Should Chairman Fulbright call on me to produce these Estimates I plan to respond by offering to reappear before the Committee and repeat substantially the same testimony on the subject which I gave the Committee on 26 February 1969. This testimony I think accurately and adequately reflects the relevant conclusions of the National Intelligence Estimates in question. I would not want to supply to the Committee the Estimates themselves,

which I believe would reveal intelligence sources and methods to an unnecessary and unwarranted degree.

Should Chairman Fulbright find this proposal unacceptable and persist in his request for copies of the Estimates themselves, I feel my only course would be to raise the matter with the President.

Because this issue may have far-reaching ramifications, I wanted to advise you of it promptly, and unless it can be satisfactorily resolved, I may have to call on you for counsel or assistance.

Respectfully,

Richard Helms
Director

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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3 April 1969

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.
Mr. Bross 7E22

May I have your comments by close of business 4 April 1969.

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Mr. Maury

4/4/69

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bill.

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